

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-9 and 14-19 are pending. Claims 10-13 have been cancelled.

Claims 1-2 and 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant notes that claim 10 has previously been cancelled. Applicant assumes, therefore, that the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph was a clerical error and the rejection of claim 10 is moot.

It appears from the Office Action that claims 1-2 and 7-10 were rejected as being indefinite because it is unclear how Applicant's claimed "... said master storage device is not said authorized device ..." if the master device (master card 21) must be authorized before the authorized storage device (IC card 22 or 23) is certified. Accordingly, the claims have been amended to be more clear and to recite, "... said master storage device **is disabled** from being said authorized device..."

Claims 1-2, 14-16 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Treharne et al. It is respectfully submitted, however, that the claims are now patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below. Applicant's invention, as recited by claim 1, includes features which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

...said certification means is operative to certify that said master storage device **is disabled** from being said authorized device if said storage means has stored therein said identification information of said authorized storage device... (Emphasis added).

Basis for these amendments may be found in the specification at page 17, lines 3-7.

According to Applicant's exemplary embodiment, the ID of master card 21 is received by the communicating unit 31b, which makes the master card 21 an authorized device. (Page 15, lines 2-10 and Fig. 2). After the master card 21 is authorized, an ID of an authorized storage device (IC card 22 or 23) may be stored. If a user then inserts the master card 21 into the IC cardholder, certification unit 31a does not certify master card 21 as an authorized device and master card 21 becomes **disabled** because the ID of an authorized storage device (IC card 22 or 23) has previously been stored. (Page 17, lines 1-7). Thus, Applicant's exemplary embodiment corresponds to "...said certification means is operative to certify that said master storage device is **disabled** from being said authorized device if said storage means has stored

therein said identification information of said authorized storage device, " as recited in proposed claim 1.

In contrast, Treharne et al. **does not disable** a master storage device if an ID of an authorized storage device has been stored. Treharne et al. discloses inserting a valid key with a security code into a microprocessor. (Col. 2, line 65 to col. 3, line 3). The Office Action argues that the valid key is Applicant's claimed "master storage device." (Office Action, page 6, line 14).

The microprocessor of Treharne et al. compares the security code of the valid key with codes stored in memory. If the security code is a valid code, the key is removed and a program mode is initiated for a period of time (i.e. 10 seconds). (Col. 3, lines 4-8). If a new key with a previously unprogrammed security code is then inserted during the period of time, the microprocessor reads the unprogrammed security code from the key. (Col. 3, lines 9-14). Applicant assumes that the Office Action is interpreting the new key as Applicant's claimed "authorized storage device." If the security code on the new key is already a programmed code, the system prevents the code from being stored twice by going to the end of the program. (Col. 3, lines 14-19). That is, Treharne et al. terminates the process if a code is already stored. Accordingly, the Office Action argues that Treharne et al. discloses that the process is terminated if an ID of an authorized storage device has been stored.

Treharne et al. **does not disable** a master storage device, however, if an ID of an authorized storage device has been stored. That is, Treharne et al. does not disclose "...said certification means is operative to certify that said master storage device is disabled from being said authorized device if said storage means has stored therein said identification information of said authorized storage device," as recited in proposed claim 1. Thus, claim 1 is allowable over the art of record.

Claims 2, 14-16 and 19, while not identical to claim 1, include features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Thus, claims 2, 14-16 and 19 are also allowable over the art of record for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1.

Claims 3-7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious in view of Treharne et al. and Anzai et al. These claims are allowable, however, by virtue of their dependency on their respective allowable independent claims.

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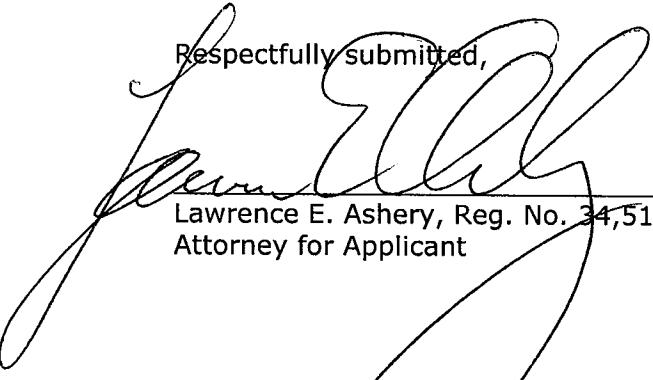
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Claims 8 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious in view of Treharne et al. and Jones. These claims are allowable, however, by virtue of their dependency on their respective allowable independent claims.

Claims 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being obvious in view of Treharne et al., Jones and Funahashi. Claim 18 is allowable, however, by virtue of its dependency on an allowable independent claim.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this Application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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